GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6156
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
UTILISATION OF LAND
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a timebound programme for optimum utilization of land in view of rising population in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of area of land available in both States which will be kept for optimum utilization;

(d) the details of cultivable and eroded land available particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(e) whether the Government propose to assess the extent erosion of land in next ten years; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for the Tenth Five Year Plan constituted by Planning Commission has formulated a perspective plan for development of an area of 88.5 million ha. in 20 years through Watershed Development programmes in the country, including Jharkhand and Bihar.

(c)&(d): Total geographical area of Jharkhand and Bihar is about 17.4 million ha., out of which, an area of about 6.55 million ha. is suffering from various kinds of land degradation and can be brought for optimum utilization after reclamation/development. Net area available for cultivation in both the states is about 7.4 million ha..

(e)&(f): It is estimated that about 173.6 million ha., out of total reported area of about 306 million ha., is subjected to various kinds of land degradation and about 5300 million tonnes of top soil is being lost every year through water erosion. For development and management of degraded lands, Government of India is implementing various watershed development programmes. An area of about 27.5 million ha. has been treated under these programmes by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country, including Jharkhand and Bihar.